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Humphrey's Stand on
C.I.A.

To the Editor:

Vice President Humphrey was not being very responsive to the issues raised in the discussion of the Central Intelligence Agency when he reassured the agency "if you weren't being criticized, you wouldn't be doing anything" (Times, Sept. 19).

One issue was whether an intelligence agency should secretly finance and influence independent organizations such as the National Student Association, trade unions, publishing houses, magazines. This is standard operating procedure in a totalitarian society, but reprehensible in a democracy.

Another question was whether an intelligence agency should acquire policy-making functions (mainly by accretion and failure of the executive and legislative bodies to supervise its functions). This too was prevalent in both Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union.

The issue boils down to whether fighting totalitarianism requires that we pay them the tribute of imitation. Mr. Humphrey apparently agrees with those who say we must fight fire with fire. He obviously doesn't agree with Walter Lippmann that the way to combat totalitarianism is with liberal and progressive policies.

JOSEPH CLARK
Brooklyn, Sept. 19, 1967

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